

## Message Text

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11

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 041012Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5011

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 109

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PARM UR US

SUBJECT: SOVIET OFFICERS DISCUSS SALT

1. SOVIET MFA OFFICERS SOKOLOV AND BUBNOV, CHIEFS OF TWO PRINCIPAL SUBDIVISIONS OF USA DIVISION AND THEREFORE INVOLVED IN SALT BACKSTOPPING, TOLD US JANUARY 3 THAT U.S. COULD EXPECT SOVIET POSITIONS AT RESUMED SALT II TALKS TO BE BASED ON AMERICAN PROPOSALS, WITH "APPROPRIATE MODIFICATION".

2. THEY RAISED FBS BUT ACKNOWLEDGED THAT SOVIET POSITION ON THIS SUBJECT CUTS ACROSS SOVIET CONCERN ABOUT GROWING EUROPEAN INTEREST IN SEPARATE DEFENSE FORCE. BUBNOV WENT ON TO SAY THAT USSR TAKES INTO CONSIDERATION THE U.S. NEED TO SAFEGUARD INTERESTS OF ITS ALLIES, BUT EMPHASIZED THAT FOR SOVIET SIDE IT IS CRUCIAL TO COUNT FBS WHEN CALCULATING STRATEGIC WEAPONS. ASKED WHETHER THIS WAS POLITICAL OR MILITARY NECESSITY, HE REPLIED IT WAS BOTH.

3. IN THIS CONTEXT, CONVERSATION TURNED TO MBFR. BUBNOV AND SOKOLOV STATED CANDID VIEW THAT SOVIETS PREFER A WESTERN EUROPEAN DEFENSE SYSTEM IN WHICH THE U.S. IS PRE-EMINENT TO AN ALL-EUROPEAN SYSTEM. IT IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT TO KEEP THE NUCLEAR CLUB SMALL IN EUROPE (A THINLY VEILED REFERENCE TO GERMANY). SOKOLOV REFERRED TO MANSFIEDL VIEWS ON TROOP WITHDRAWALS AND WONDERED IF U.S. APPRECIATES THAT SOVIETS GAVE THE ADMINISTRATION A "FREE GIFT" BY AGREEING TO TALK ABOUT MBFR. WE RESPONDED THAT WE WERE MORE INTERESTED IN THE MOTIVATIONS  
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BEHIND THIS "FREE GIFT".

4. OCCASION FOR CONVERSATION WAS SM LL \*REWELL LUNCHEON FOR BUBNOV, WHO IS TRANSFERRING TO SOVIET EMBASSY WASHINGTON. FACT

THAT MFA OFFICERS WERE AUDITED AT LEAST BY EACH OTHER SUGGESTS  
THAT THEY WERE NOT MERELY FREE-WHEELING.SOMMERLATTE

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 27 JUL 1999  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** NEGOTIATIONS, SALT (ARMS CONTROL), PROPOSALS (BID)  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 04 JAN 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Source:** ADS  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
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**Executive Order:** 11652 GDS  
**Errors:** n/a  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SOVIET OFFICERS DISCUSS SALT  
**TAGS:** PEPR, PARM, US, UR  
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